Bay Area Dioxins Project
Association of Bay Area Governments

Summary of Discussions
TASK FORCE MEETING
June 24, 2003

Attending the meeting were:
(by telephone) Davis Baltz, Commonweal
Robin Breuer, City/County of San Francisco*
JoAnna Bullock, ABAG Staff
Alicia Culver, Inform Inc.
Pamela Evans, Alameda County*
Jennifer Krebs, ABAG Staff
Kelly Moran, TDC Environmental+
Michael Smith, ABAG Staff
Julie Weiss, City of Palo Alto*

(+ Task Force consultant, * Task Force member)

Welcome/Introductions
Jennifer Krebs convened the meeting and welcomed Task Force members and members of the public.

Public Comment Period - Speakers

- Alicia Culver, Inform Inc.
- Davis Baltz, Commonweal

Roundtable Discussion
Kelly Moran mentioned a recent study she read about anti-bacterial soap creating dioxins when exposed to sunlight. The antibacterial component that reacts with the sun is triclosan. The dioxin produced by the reaction is not among the most toxic forms of the chemical, but it is something that was unexpected.

Jennifer Krebs asked Robin Breuer if San Francisco had an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for its hospitals. Robin stated that the San Francisco hospitals participated in the city's IPM program and provided contacts for both Laguna Honda and San Francisco General.

Budget and Work Plan
Jennifer stated that the final budget and work plan was the smaller of the two versions discussed in March and April in conference calls because to date, EPA, has not been able to offer additional funding. As a result, the Bay Area Dioxins Project budget will sustain the project until the targeted PBT grant completion date of October 2003. The work plan presented at the meeting is intended to complete the projects that are currently in progress.

The members of the Task Force approved the final budget and work plan as submitted. The approved budget and work plan is included as an attachment.

Pollution Prevention Project Updates
Kelly started the project updates by distributing the final materials for the Medical Waste Project to the members of the Task Force. Kelly also thanked Julie Weiss for her assistance with the document layouts. Besides the initial hard copies of the documents that were distributed, each member of the Task Force received a disk with the electronic versions of all the documents so that the municipalities can reproduce the documents as needed.

The Task Force approved the Medical Waste Project materials and directed staff to post the materials on the project website.

Kelly ended the project update by stating that the fact-finding portions of all the selected projects were complete.

Kelly also recommended a publication by Health Care Without Harm called *Non-Incineration Medical Waste Treatment Technologies*, which is available on their website (www.noharm.org) as a PDF document. She stated that this publication is an excellent technical resource on the issue of incineration of medical waste. The only sections of the publication with out of date information are the vendor lists, as there's been significant changes in the industry.

EPA Wood Smoke Report
Kelly described the findings of a new EPA report that examined the amount of dioxins in wood smoke. The EPA based the study, conducted in North Carolina, on questions from the Bay Area on dioxins in wood smoke. The study tested three samples each of oak (the most common form of wood used in Bay Area fireplaces), pine, and an artificial log (Duraflame.)

Since the most common use for fireplaces in the Bay Area are for pleasure rather than heating, the tests were conducted in the evening to mimic the time most fireplaces are used in the region.

The results of the tests were inconclusive as to which type of wood produced the least dioxins because there was a significant spread in the data results. Unfortunately, on the basis of the study, it appears that municipalities do not have a "better" wood burning alternative, as artificial logs and both tested wood types produced (within experimental error) similar levels of dioxins emissions per fire. The data do show that burning a lower volume of material produces less dioxins. The data also confirm that combustion in an EPA-certified wood stove produces less air pollution than burning in an ordinary fireplace. One possible explanation for the inconclusive data in this study is the small number of test samples. On the basis of the study, Kelly recommended that municipalities stick with their current educational messages, which discourage wood and trash burning, and which promote natural gas or no burning as alternatives.

Kelly also cautioned that the levels of dioxins found in the test samples, which were lower than the amounts assumed in Bay Area estimates of regional dioxin levels produced by wood smoke, should not be used to recalculate the regional dioxin estimates from wood smoke. The reason for this is because the tests were conducted using modified fireplaces (a heater-style design), which are more efficient and probably produce less smoke than the open fireplaces used commonly throughout the Bay Area.

Public Comment Period - Speakers
- No comments made.

Adjournment
Next meeting:
- August 26th of 2003, 10:30am, ABAG Office, Conference Room B

Bay Area Dioxins Project
WORKPLAN Budget 2003/2004
Final Year of Project

The San Francisco Bay Area Dioxins Project has been working on dioxins pollution prevention through a variety of activities including the *Screening Evaluation of Dioxins Pollution Prevention Options* and the subsequent implementation of Pollution Prevention Demonstration Projects. All documents prepared to date that have been approved by the Task Force are posted on the project website: http://dioxin.abag.ca.gov/. This document summarizes the project efforts to date and then presents a task summary and budget from April 2003 until project completion or additional funding commitments.

Background

The Dioxins Task Force completed the ***Screening Evaluation of Dioxins Pollution Prevention Options*** on September 12, 2001. This report reviewed options that could be considered by local government agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area to prevent the formation of dioxins. The report identified and evaluated pollution prevention (P2) options for 11 potential dioxin sources including:

- 2,4-D
- agricultural burning
- diesel engines
- drum reclamation
- medical waste incineration
- paper bleaching
- pentachlorophenol
- petroleum refining
- PCBs
- PVC
- wood burning

Potential P2 projects addressing these sources, that were identified by the screening evaluation report and within the jurisdiction of local governments, included:

- Medical waste management (promoting alternatives to incineration)
- PCF paper purchasing
- Adopt BAAQMD model wood burning ordinance
- Promote better fireplace management
- Diesel fuel alternatives
- Alternatives to PVC building products
- 2,4-D use reduction

Demonstration projects were selected based on a variety of factors including cost, gaps in existing municipal programs, appropriateness for regional action, interest/availability of local agencies, public interest, and feasibility. The following demonstration projects were selected:

- PCF Paper Purchasing
- PVC Alternatives in Building Materials
- Diesel Fuel Alternatives
- Medical Waste Management

Demonstration Project Descriptions

The goals and products for each demonstration project are discussed below. All completed materials described below are available on the ABAG Dioxins Website (http://dioxin.abag.ca.gov) under Pilot Project Materials.

PCF Paper Purchasing

The goal of this project was to investigate options for, and facilitate purchasing of, chlorine-free paper. A list of chlorine free paper products was assembled and reviewed by the task force. After reviewing the types of paper products for which chlorine free paper was an alternative, it was decided to focus on 'process chlorine free' (PCF) copy paper for the demonstration project. To aid local governments in implementing plans to purchase PCF paper, the following support materials were developed:

- FAQ – "Getting Started on Chlorine-Free Paper Purchasing"
- Purchasing Information Packet (model Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policies, Paper Specification, Tips, Resources)
- Paper Purchasing Pool Information

PVC Alternatives in Building Materials

The goal of this project was to investigate options to PVC materials used in construction and develop information to facilitate purchasing these alternatives. The Healthy Building Network (http://www.healthybuilding.net) has developed a great deal of information on building materials that contain PVC and acceptable alternatives that was used for this project. In addition to developing information on alternative building materials, a case study, the renovation of Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco, was developed in cooperation with the Healthy Building Network. Materials developed for this project included:

- FAQ – "Incorporating Alternatives to PVC in Buildings"
- Information Packet: Alternatives to PVC Building Materials (non-PVC options for flooring, wall coverings, window coverings, siding, plumbing, roofing materials with vendor and price information as available)
- Case Study - Laguna Honda Hospital Replacement Project (draft)

Diesel Fuel Alternatives

The purpose of this project was to identify funding opportunities to assist municipalities in converting or replacing diesel fuel vehicles and to obtain case studies for existing local diesel conversion projects. Materials developed for this project included:

- Memorandum: Funding for Municipal Diesel Vehicle Fuel Conversion or Replacement with Alternative Fuel Vehicles
- Diesel Alternative Case Studies (draft)

Medical Waste Management

The purpose of this project was to identify alternatives to incineration for medical waste management and obtain Bay Area specific information with respect to costs, vendors and regulatory requirements associated with the alternatives. Autoclaving was found to be the only practical alternative to incineration for management of the majority of the Bay Area's medical waste. Materials were developed to facilitate decision-making by hospitals about medical waste management. Materials were developed for the project in cooperation with the Healthcare Pollution Prevention Project and included:

- Fact Sheet – Managing Medical Waste: Important Choices for Acute Care Hospitals (draft)
- Fact Sheet – Permit Requirements for Installing Autoclaves at Acute Care Hospitals (draft)
- FAQ: Autoclaving an Acute Care Hospital's Regulated Medical Waste (draft)
- Vendor list (draft)
- Resources (draft)
- Autoclaving Cost Worksheet (draft)

Proposed Tasks & Budget for FY 2003/04

***Task #1* – Expand existing PCF paper purchasing in Alameda County**

Task	Budget
1. Review current PCF paper usage by departments.	$2,000
2. Identify barriers to switching to PCF paper.	$1,000
3. Identify new departments that will try PCF paper.	$800
4. Work with purchasing agent to add these departments to PCF paper contracts.	$600
5. Compile referral list of municipalities in the Bay Area who have instituted unbleached or alternatively bleached paper products	$1,000
TOTAL	$5,400

***Task #2* – Public Outreach**

Task	Budget
1. Information Updates to project participants. Consultants would monitor national programs of interest and to assist local agencies in "taking the ball and running with it."	$5,000
2. Project Outreach. ABAG would produce materials for presentations at conferences and on the Bay Area Dioxins Project website that would provide a guide to interested parties in the steps to take to implement dioxins pollution prevention programs.	$2,000
3. Maintain website, post new pollution prevention materials, and post final report.	$3,000
TOTAL	$10,000

***Task #3* – Project Coordination**

Task	Budget
1. Organize quarterly project meetings for municipalities and other entities working on dioxins pollution prevention that provide an opportunity for information exchange, obtaining information from other government agencies working on dioxins-related issues.	$5,000
2. Coordinate project staff at ABAG, manage contracts with consultants, apply for and manage EPA grants.	$3,000
TOTAL	$8,000

***Task #4* – Prepare Final Accomplishments Report**

Task	Budget
1. Prepare an "implementation review" of each of the Dioxins P2 options in the Screening Evaluation to identify the status of implementation of each item for each of the participating municipalities. (a table with each topic briefly described in one column and a list of actions (by city) in the second column)	$5,000
2. Summarize project activities and outcomes	$2,000
3. Complete final report (introduction, project background, conclusions, review, formatting).	$3,000
TOTAL	$10,000

Staff and Funding

Work would be coordinated at ABAG by Jennifer Krebs, Senior Environmental Planner. Additional ABAG support staff members include Michael Smith, Regional Planner/Project Webmaster, and Joanna Bullock, Regional Planner/Project Outreach Coordinator. ABAG would continue to contract to LWA and TDC Environmental for Pollution Prevention Technical Assistance. The funds shown above are the combined contributions of EPA's PBT grant which should be complete by October 1, 2003 as well as additional contributions from local participating agencies. Local agencies have indicated a willingness to contribute in FY 2003/04 to conclude the project and disseminate the final report.